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## A healing message

Furman University

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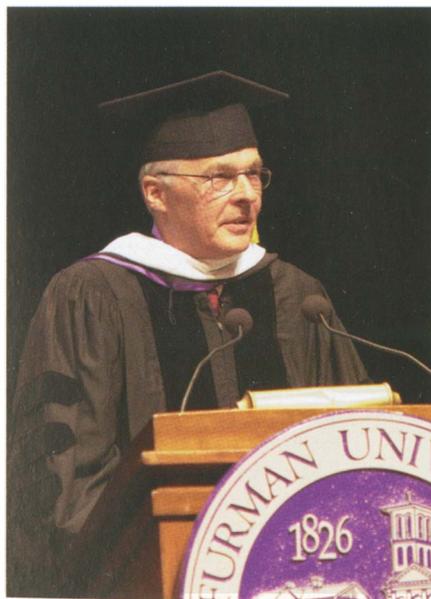
## A healing message *September 11 attacks remembered at school year's opening convocation*

**W**erner Krättschell, a prominent Lutheran minister from Germany, brought his message of peace and reconciliation to Furman at the opening convocation of the 2002-2003 academic year — held on September 11.

Krättschell, who is Superintendent of the Army Chaplaincy Program in the New Provinces of Germany, was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree for his years of devotion to the cause of peaceful co-existence. While the former East Germany was under Communist control, he worked successfully to keep the lines of communication open between dissidents and the ruling regime. In 1982, Coventry Cathedral in Great Britain named him a Companion of the Order of the Cross of Nails, an honor bestowed upon those who are “devoted to the pursuit of peace and reconciliation.”

When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, he played a prominent role in the country's orderly transition to a new form of government. He is now involved in a new task: bringing together the traditionally non-religious German military and the traditionally anti-military church of the former East Germany.

In his remarks, Krättschell pointed out that, because of the terrorist attacks, people throughout the world have been “shattered”



**Werner Krättschell addresses the need to work for peace and reconciliation in the wake of international tensions. Top: Students engage in a candlelight vigil on the steps of the Charles E. Daniel Chapel to commemorate the anniversary of the September 11 attacks.**



on several levels. For one thing, he said, we can no longer believe that our physical security systems can protect us.

“But even more serious,” he said, “is the loss of our inner security, which existed because we believed that our system of values and norms had such a power of conviction that it would automatically be able to convince people of other cultures of its validity and would lead to a worldwide codex of reason, tolerance and ethics, to which everyone in the world would subscribe.”

Krättschell also told the audience that repaying violence with violence often leads to even more disastrous consequences, and he used the biblical story of Cain and Abel to illustrate his point. He said that while the story is about murder and its consequences, it is also about how God allowed the murderous Cain to live.

“The dark, killing side of human beings does exist,” he said. “We must use all of our strength to resist this dark, killing side, regardless of its motivation. For this there must be the ethical impulse of the unconditional protection of life, but there must also be highly specialized people and systems to resist the dark and killing instincts. The so-called belief in human goodness and every form of naiveté are wrong and possibly fatal.

“But this effort must be carried out in such a way that the person being fought against is allowed to live and has the chance to alter his way of life, that Saul can become Paul, that the fanatic can become a friend of the weak and innocent, and that the murderer can try to atone for his deeds. The tension between decisive clarity and hopeful patience may seem paradoxical, but the mental atmosphere of newness in

a changed world must result from this tension.

“When we ask, therefore, how we as individuals and as a community of mankind can continue, the answer must include the installation of doors — doors for the development of new values and norms through which the powers of God's word can enter our world to help, heal and reconcile.”

The convocation launched a daylong remembrance of the September 11 tragedy. Beginning at noon and ending with a candlelight vigil at 8 p.m., various campus groups offered memorial tributes on the hour.

During the convocation, the university announced the establishment of the Dorothy and B.H. Peace, Jr., Professorship in Religion. Endowed by Dorothy Pedrick Peace, a prominent Greenville, the chair will be awarded to a faculty member who is a pre-eminent scholar of Christianity. Announcement of the appointment is expected to be made in the fall of 2003.

In addition, the university announced the appointment of two faculty members to existing professorships.

Sandra G. Roberson has been named to the Robert E. Hughes Professorship in Economics and Business Administration. She came to Furman in 1999 and holds a master's degree from West Virginia University.

Chemistry professor Timothy W. Hanks has been named to the Henry Keith and Ellen Hard Townes Professorship. Hanks, who came to Furman in 1990, earned a Ph.D. from Montana State University.